

From: Sonne, Byron
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 12/12/01 2:25pm
Subject: Renata Hesse, Department of Justice re: Microsoft case

Greetings,

As a computing professional with many years of experience in the field, I have great concerns regarding the Microsoft Antitrust case. The company has, I remind the judge, already been found in violation, and this is the penalty phase of the case, but the settlement contains no penalties and actually advances Microsoft's operating system monopoly. A just penalty, I continue, would at barest minimum include three additional features:

* Any remedy seeking to prevent an extension of Microsoft's monopoly must place Microsoft products as extra-cost options in the purchase of new computers, so that the user who does not wish to purchase them is not forced to do so. This means that for the price differential between a new computer with Microsoft software and one without, a computer seller must offer the software without the computer (which would prevent computer makers from saying that the difference in price is only a few dollars). Only then could competition come to exist in a meaningful way.

* The specifications of Microsoft's present and future document file formats must be made public, so that documents created in Microsoft applications may be read by programs from other makers, on Microsoft's or other operating systems. This is in addition to opening the Windows application program interface (API, the set of "hooks" that allow other parties to write applications for Windows operating systems), which is already part of the proposed settlement.

* Any Microsoft networking protocols must be published in full and approved by an independent network protocol body. This would prevent Microsoft from seizing de facto control of the Internet.

Respectfully yours,
Byron Sonne